

- This Unit's Essential Questions:**
- 1) What were the political, economic and social causes of WWI?
  - 2) What were the physical and psychological effects of trench warfare on the soldiers?
  - 3) What events broke the stalemate and allowed the Allies to prove victorious?
  - 4) What were the political and economic effects of the War and the Treaty of Versailles?




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## A World Crisis

**The Main Idea**  
Rivalries among European nations led to the outbreak of war in 1914.

**This Section's Focus Questions:**

- What were the causes of World War I?
- How did the war break out?
- Why did the war quickly reach a stalemate?

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### Explosive material for World War I

**Directions:**  
The metaphor of the "powder keg" refers to the causes of WWI. For each box, list a cause of WWI. For the match, list the one event that "sparked" the outbreak of the war!

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Period #: \_\_\_\_\_

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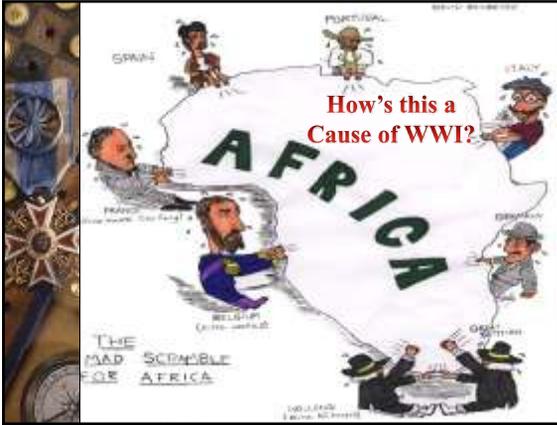
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How's this a Cause of WWI?

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### Causes of World War I: Imperialism

- Before 1914 European nations were engaged in a struggle to obtain overseas colonies.
- Many nations took part in what became known as the "Scramble for Africa".
- Such imperial contests for power increased tensions between European nations



BRITAIN    FRANCE    GERMANY    ITALY    BELGIUM

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### Colonial Disputes

- Kaiser William II** — leader of Germany--was jealous of the colonial empires of France and Britain.
- In 1905 and 1911, German claims over Morocco raised international tension.
- The inability to resolve these claims made the possibility of war more likely.



Kaiser William II

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### Causes of WWI: Nationalism Vs. Imperialism Vs. Militarism

Nationalism	Imperialism	Militarism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme pride people feel for their country</li> <li>• Struggle for power was visible in the Balkans, a European region with many ethnic groups.</li> <li>• The Ottoman Empire that ruled the Balkans was falling apart.</li> <li>• Austria-Hungary saw this and began to annex provinces.</li> <li>• The Slavs wanted to revolt, and Russia promised protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other nations were also trying to expand, and this quest for colonial empires is known as <b>imperialism</b>.</li> <li>• Late 1800s: Britain and France already had large empires.</li> <li>• German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, wanted colonies for Germany.</li> <li>• He created a stronger military to start colonizing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy of military preparedness</li> <li>• Germany built a strong navy to rival Britain's</li> <li>• Germany enlarged, bought latest weapons.</li> <li>• German army officials drew up war plans like the Schlieffen Plan, which called for attacks on several countries.</li> <li>• Britain, France, and Russia began to prepare, too.</li> </ul>

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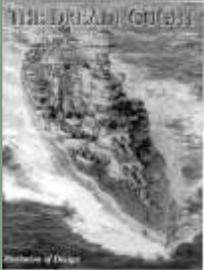
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### Causes of World War I: Militarism

- Germany was competing with the UK to build battleships.
- The British feared an attack on their Empire




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### Militarism

- Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

	1880	1914
• Germany	1.3m	5.0m
• France	0.73m	4.0m
• Russia	0.40m	1.2m





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### Causes of World War I: Nationalism

- Nations wanted to assert their power and independence.
- In Europe Slavs, aided by Serbia and Russia, wanted to be free of Austrian rule.



Serbia's national flag

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### Causes of WWI: Alliances




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### European Alliances

<p><b>1879</b></p> <p><b>The Dual Alliance</b> Germany and Austria-Hungary make an alliance to protect themselves from Russia.</p>	<p><b>1881</b></p> <p><b>Austro-Serbian Alliance</b> Austria-Hungary makes an alliance with Serbia to prevent Russia getting control of Balkan.</p>
<p><b>1892</b></p> <p><b>The Triple Alliance</b> Germany and Austria-Hungary make an alliance with Italy so they can swing sides with Russia.</p>	<p><b>1894</b></p> <p><b>France-Russian Alliance</b> Russia allies with France to protect itself from Austria-Hungary and Germany.</p>
<p><b>1904</b></p> <p><b>Entente Cordiale</b> This was an agreement but not a formal alliance between Britain and France.</p>	<p><b>1907</b></p> <p><b>The Anglo-Russian Entente</b> Britain and Russia ended the differences with the alliance.</p>
<p><b>1907</b></p> <p><b>The Triple Entente</b> The alliance between Britain, France and Russia was made because of opposing interests between Germany and Russia and Germany and Britain.</p>	

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## Alliances

- Nations formed **alliances**--or partnerships--for protection.
- Alliances were formed to maintain peace but would lead directly to war.
- **Triple Alliance**--Germany's military alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy.
- **Triple Entente**--Great Britain's alliance with France and Russia.
- Some European leaders believed that these alliances created a **balance of power**--each nation had equal strength, therefore decreasing the chance of war.




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European Alliances at the Start of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with five countries remaining neutral.

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## Helpful Memory Aide for some of the Causes of WWI

**The MAIN causes**

**M**ilitarism

**A**lliances

**I**mperialism

**N**ationalism

**GLOSSARY**

**Alliances** - agreements or promises to defend and help another country.

**Imperialism** - trying to build up an Empire.

**Empire** - where a powerful country controls several less powerful countries.

**Militarism** - building up armed forces, getting ready for war.

**Nationalism** - having pride in your country, willing to defend it.

**GLOSSARY**

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	Archduke Francis Ferdinand (assassinated)	Austria-Hungary		King George V Great Britain
	Emperor Franz Joseph	Austria-Hungary		Czar Nicholas II Russia
	Kaiser Wilhelm II Germany			President Woodrow Wilson United States

**WORLD LEADERS OF WWI**  
**Write these down & memorize!**

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### The Major Players in the Coming Crisis

		
Franz-Josef Leader of Austria-Hungary	Kaiser Wilhelm II Leader of Germany	Czar Nicholas II Leader of Russia

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### Kaiser Wilhelm II

- Built up German army and navy
- Aggressive foreign policy
- Determined to make Germany a top nation.
- Distrusted by other powers



“Germany must have its place in the sun”  
 “The world belongs to the strong.”

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## The Schlieffen Plan's Destructive Nature

- “Knock out blow” aimed at France first.
- Avoid French defences by invasion of Belgium.
- Germans thought Britain would not intervene.




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## Why did Britain get involved?

- Britain had **Ententes** with France and Russia.
- Only “friendly agreements” but French and Russians were given impression Britain would fight.
- The Schlieffen Plan



Sir Edward Grey  
British Foreign Secretary  
... “There’s some devilry going on in Berlin”

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## Britain's Reaction

- 1838- UK had signed a **Treaty** to protect Belgium.
- Britain also scared of Germany controlling **Channel ports**.
- Did not want **Germany** to defeat France and **dominate Europe**. Britain next?
- UK issued **ultimatum** to Germany to withdraw troops from Belgium.




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### The inevitability of war? The Alliance System at work.

- July 28, 1914 A-H declares war on Serbia
- July 29, 1914 Serbia's ally Russia orders full mobilization of its troops
- August 1, 1914 Germany, Austria's ally, declares war on Russia
- August 2, 1914 Germany demands Belgium declare access to German troops as part of the Schlieffen Plan to invade France




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### "Belgium is a country, not a road"

- King Albert I of Belgium denied permission to the Germans
- August 2, 1914 Germany declared war on France.
- August 4, 1914 Germans invade Belgium and march on Paris. Great Britain declares war on Germany to protect Belgian neutrality. 8 nations with 17 million soldiers are at war.

Color photo of Belgian troops carrying their FN Mauser Model 1889 rifles. (Color photography was invented around 1900, so WWI color photos are rare but exist!)




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### TWO SIDES OF WWI

ALLIES	CENTRAL POWERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Britain</li> <li>• France</li> <li>• Russia</li> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• Belgium</li> <li>• U.S. (later)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany</li> <li>• Austria-Hungary</li> <li>• Bulgaria</li> <li>• Turkey</li> </ul>




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## 1914 - 1915 Illusions about War

- "Fatal attraction of war"
  - Exhilarating release from every day life
  - A glorious adventure
  - War would rid the nations of selfishness
  - Spark a national re-birth based on heroism
- Many Europeans were excited about war
  - "Defend yourself against the aggressors"
  - Domestic differences were put aside



**Perpetrating the Noble Principle for Which They Fought and Died**

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## 1914 - 1915 Illusions about War

- Many believed War would last a few weeks
- Ignored the length and brutality of the American Civil War (prototype to World War I)

Belief that Modern industrial war could not be conducted for more than a few months

"Home by Christmas"





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## Think! Why did soldiers join the War?

1. Look at Sources B and C. What do we learn about the reasons why men volunteered to fight in 1914 from these two sources?

**Source B**

We had been brought up to believe that Britain was the best country in the world and we wanted to defend her. ...we wanted to show the Germans what we could do.

From: Private George Morgan, 1st Bedford Pals, interviewed after the war.

**Source C**

I was quite empty-headed and bored to tears with shop life. The chaps round about started to go, so I said, 'I'm going'. Well it was gonna be a change. Most volunteers went to get away from their environment.

The case of a recruit as why he joined up to fight in 1914.

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## New Weapons of War

Poisonous Gas	Tanks	Airplanes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German military scientists experimented with gas as a weapon.</li> <li>Gas in battle was risky: Soldiers didn't know how much to use, and wind changes could backfire the gas.</li> <li>Then Germans threw canisters of gas into the Allies' trenches.</li> <li>Many regretted using gas, but British and French forces began using it too, to keep things even.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When soldiers began to carry gas masks, they still faced a stalemate.</li> <li>British forces soon developed armored tanks to move into no-man's-land.</li> <li>These tanks had limited success because many got stuck in the mud.</li> <li>Germans soon found ways to destroy the tanks with artillery fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both sides used planes to map and to attack trenches from above.</li> <li>Planes first dropped bricks and heavy objects on enemy troops.</li> <li>Soon they mounted guns and bombs on planes.</li> <li>Skilled pilots sought in air battles called dogfights.</li> <li>The German Red Baron downed 80 Allied planes, until he was shot down.</li> </ul>

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## NEW WEAPONS OF WWI

- TANKS – BRITISH
- FLAME THROWER – GERMANS
- U-BOATS (UNTERSEEBOOTEN)
- AIRPLANES
- GAS
  - POISON
  - MUSTARD
- MACHINE GUNS
- TANK TRAPS
- NEW WAY TO FIGHT – TRENCH WARFARE
- MINES

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## First World War Weapons

During World War One, a wide variety of weapons were used:

The main weapon used by British soldiers in the trenches was the **bolt-action rifle**. 15 rounds could be fired in a minute and a person 1,400 metres away could be killed.



**Machine guns** needed 4-6 men to work them and had to be on a flat surface. They had the fire power of 100 guns.

Large field guns (**artillery**) had a long range and could deliver devastating blows to the enemy but needed up to 12 men to work them. They fired **shells** which exploded on impact.



The German army were the first to use **chlorine gas** at the battle of Ypres in 1915. Chlorine gas causes a burning sensation in the throat and chest pain. Death is painful – you suffocate! The problem with chlorine gas is that the weather must be right.

**Mustard gas** was the most deadly weapon used: it was fired into the trenches in shells. It is colourless and takes 12 hours to take effect. Effects include – blistering skin, vomiting, sore eyes, internal and external bleeding. Death can take up to 5 weeks.

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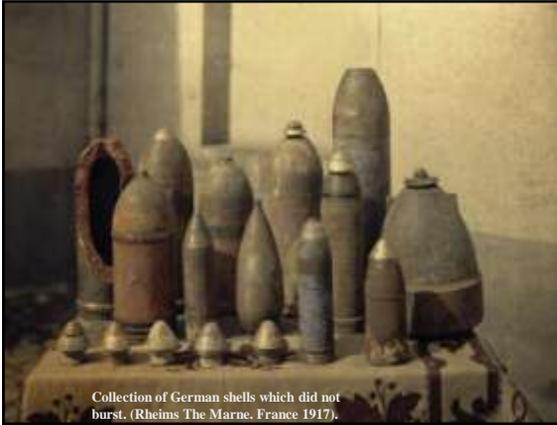
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Collection of German shells which did not burst. (Rheims The Marne, France 1917).

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<p>The <b>Zeppelin</b>, also known as blimp, was an airship that was used during the early part of the war in bombing raids by the Germans. They carried machine guns and bombs. However, they were abandoned because they were easy to shoot out of the sky.</p>	
	<p><b>Tanks</b> were used for the first time in the First World War. They were developed to cope with the conditions on the Western Front. The first tank was called <i>Little Willie</i> and needed a crew of 3. Its maximum speed was 3mph and it could not cross trenches. The more modern tank was not developed until just before the end of the war. It could carry 10 men, had a revolving turret and could reach 4mph.</p>
<p><b>Planes</b> were also used for the first time. At first they were used to deliver bombs and for spying work but became fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, bombs and sometimes cannons. Fights between two planes in the sky became known as 'dogfights'.</p>	
	<p><b>Torpedoes</b> were used by submarines. The Germans used torpedoes to blow up ships carrying supplies from America to Britain. The Germans torpedoed the passenger liner <i>Lusitania</i> on May 1st 1915 which sank with a loss of 1,195 lives. Americans were outraged and joined the war in 1917 on the side of the allies.</p>

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**World War I—Today's Essential Qs:**

- 1) What were the physical and psychological effects of trench warfare on the soldiers?
- 2) What events broke the stalemate and allowed the Allies to prove victorious?
- 3) What were the political and economic effects of the War and the Treaty of Versailles?

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## Early Battles

- August 17, 1914-- **Battle of Tannenberg**, Poland
  - The most complete German victory of the war, involving the encirclement and destruction of the 2nd Russian Army
- September 12--The Germans rout the Russian invasion of East Prussia. The Russians lose 225,000 men to the German losses of 50,000.



Russian Troops Fleeing after the Battle of Tannenberg

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Frontline trenches. Group of French servicemen

- September 5-9, 1914 **The First Battle of the Marne**  
The Germans are stopped 40 miles outside of Paris and have to retreat back 50 miles. General Moltke is relieved, General Falkenhayn replaces him.

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### The First Battle of the Marne

- The German army quickly advanced through northern France and after only one month of fighting were barely 25 miles from Paris.
- The French, however, would not give up.

The Battle	The Aftermath
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The French launched a counterattack along the Marne River east of Paris on September 7, 1914.</li> <li>• This battle became known as the <b>First Battle of the Marne</b>.</li> <li>• 2 million men fought on a battle-front that stretched 125 miles.</li> <li>• After five days and 250,000 deaths, the French had rallied and pushed the Germans back some 40 miles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The French paid a heavy price, as countless red-coated French troops had fallen in the battle.</li> <li>• Despite the loss of life, it helped the Allies by giving Russia more time to mobilize for war.</li> <li>• Once Russia mobilized, Germany had to pull some of its troops out of France and send them to fight Russia on the Eastern Front, which stretched from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea.</li> </ul>

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The destruction of Ypres    The machine gun dominates the battlefield

**October 1, 1914** **Battle of Ypres**, France

The Germans try to break through to the Channel ports. The Allies hold with 50,000 British, 50,000 French, and 150,000 German casualties.

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- November, 1914 **Turkey (Ottoman Empire)** joins the Central Powers




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**STALEMATE** —battles in which no army advances or wins. Lasts from November 1914 to spring 1917!

Over 500,000 men are killed in the Western Front, while the lines changed little, less than 10 miles in either direction.

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1915



- April-May **2nd Battle of Ypres**, France  
 German offensive using gas, first use on the Western Front.  
 The Germans push the Allies back 3 miles  
 Casualties: 60,000 British, 10,000 French, and 47,000 German

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- April-August, 1915 **Battle of Gallipoli**, Turkey  
 Big failure for the Allies, which lose 250,000 casualties, and the same for the Turks

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May 7, 1915 **Lusitania** —passenger ship—sunk by German submarines. 1198 of the 1959 passengers and crew die. 128 were Americans.

May 23, 1915 Italy declares war and joins the Allies. U.S begins to reconsider neutrality and favor the Allies.

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**Political Cartoon Analysis**

JOHN BULL LIES THE AMERICAN FLAG FOR PROTECTION  
From the American (New York) March 1915

This cartoon refers to the practice taken up by the British of flying a neutral flag (especially American) when in the declared war zone. The artist chose to depict one of the most well known British merchant ships, the Lusitania, to represent the entire merchant navy.

Question: What is so ironic about this cartoon, based on historical events?

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**Political Cartoon Analysis**

THE MESSAGE OF THE HOUR  
"Hail to the victor, hail to the victor!" "We are ready to do anything to win!" "We are ready to do anything to win!"

Is this cartoon pro or anti-German?  
What is the purpose of this cartoon?  
What is the purpose of propagandist cartoons in times of war?  
(Switch to World War I propaganda poster analysis PowerPoint!)

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**1916**

- February 21-July 11 **Battle of Verdun**  
Massive German offensive on the French. A battle of attrition—warfare meant to wear the other side down.

Casualties:  
315,000 to 377,000 French killed or wounded  
337,000 Germans killed or wounded  
150,000 of the dead never buried

"Neither side 'won' at Verdun. It was the indecisive battle in an indecisive war; the unnecessary battle in an unnecessary war; the battle that had no victors in a war that had no victors."  
-- Alistair Horne, WWI historian

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- May 31, 1916 **Battle of Jutland**  
The British & German fleets battle in the North Sea, an indecisive battle involving 250 ships. The British lose 3 battlecruisers and 3 cruisers. The Germans lose 1 battleship, 1 battlecruiser, and 4 lightcruisers. It fails to break the British blockade, severe rationing in Germany results.

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## The Battle of Somme

❓ What can we learn from studying primary sources accounts of this famous trench battle?



**A Soldier's Poem:**  
*"I have a rendezvous with Death  
 At some disputed barricade,  
 When Spring comes back with rustling shade  
 And apple-blossoms fill the air -  
 I have a rendezvous with Death  
 When Spring brings back blue days and fair."*

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*"It's a sin  
 To say that Hell is hot -  
 'cause it's not:  
 Mind you, I know very well  
 we're in hell."*

*from The Mad Soldier by Edward  
 Tennant*

- July 1-November 18, 1916  
**The Battle Somme**  
British & French offensive. One of the largest trench battles of the war! Casualties:  
 420,000 British  
 195,000 French  
 650,000 German  
 The British lost 57,000 men on the first day, July 1st.

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**Battle of the Somme – July – November 1916**  
**– a picture history**



1. General Haig – the man who planned the Battle of the Somme



2. The battle line stretched some 25 miles



3. British troops on their way to the Somme. 750,000 men were sent to the Battle of the Somme



4. At 7:20 am 40,000 pounds of explosive was detonated under a German machine gun position at Beaumont Hamel

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6. By the end of the first day 68,000 British soldiers were dead



5. The bombing had not destroyed the barbed wire.



7. Tanks were first used at the Battle of the Somme

By the end of the battle the British had advanced 8km.

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## Summary of Major World War I Battles

<p><b>Battle of Tannenburg:</b> Aug. 1914, Russia's worst defeat in World War I</p>	<p><b>First Battle of the Marne:</b> Sept. 1914, Allies halted German advance, saving Paris from occupation</p>	<p><b>First Battle of Ypres:</b> Oct.–Nov. 1914, last major German offensive until 1918</p>	<p><b>Battle of Gallipoli:</b> Apr.–Dec. 1915, failed attempt of the Allies to knock Turkey out of the war</p>
<p><b>Battle of Verdun:</b> Feb.–Dec. 1916, longest battle of World War I with huge loss of life</p>	<p><b>Battle of the Somme:</b> July–Nov. 1916, first great offensive of the British, best remembered for its staggering loss of life</p>	<p><b>Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele):</b> July–Nov. 1917, so many losses that the name Passchendaele came to mean senseless slaughter</p>	<p><b>Battle of Caporetto:</b> Oct.–Nov. 1917, tremendous victory for the Central Powers</p>

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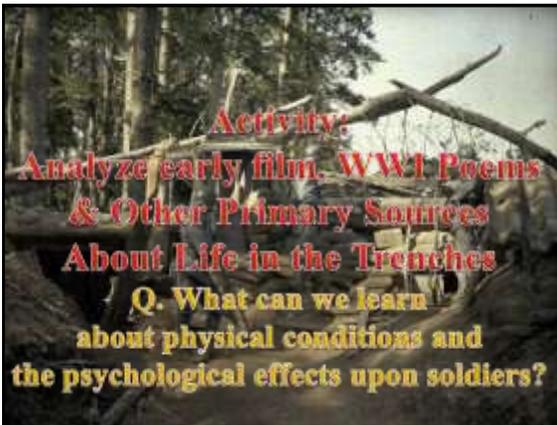
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**"If I live, I mean to spend the rest of my life working for perpetual peace. I have seen war and faced modern artillery and know what an outrage it is against simple men."**

Tom Kettle, Irish Poet, killed at the Somme 1916



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**Edward "Bim" Tennant  
soldier and poet  
(1897-1916)**

*Killed at the Somme.*

What can poetry reveal about the horrors of trench warfare and the psychological effects on soldiers? Analyze the following poem....



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*From THE MAD SOLDIER*



I dropp'd here three weeks ago, yes ~ I know,  
And it's bitter cold at night, since the fight ~  
I could tell you if I chose ~ no one knows  
Excep' me and four or five, what ain't alive  
I can see them all asleep, three men deep,  
And they're nowhere near a fire ~ but our wire  
Has 'em fast as fast can be. Can't you see  
When the flare goes up? Ssh! Boys; what's that noise?

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*The Mad Soldier continued...*



Do you know what these rats eat? Body-meat!  
After you've been down a week, 'an your cheek  
Gets as pale as life, and night seems as white  
As the day, only the rats and their brats  
Seem more hungry when the day's gone away ~  
An' they look as big as bulls, an' they pulls  
Till you almost sort o' shout ~ but the drought  
What you hadn't felt before makes you sore.  
And at times you even think of a drink...

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There's a leg across my thighs ~ if my eyes  
Weren't too sore, I'd like to see who it be,  
Wonder if I'd know the bloke if I woke? ~  
Woke? By damn, I'm not asleep ~ there's a heap  
Of us wond'ring why the hell we're not well...  
Leastways I am ~ since I came it's the same  
With the others ~ they don't know what I do,  
Or they wouldn't gape and grin.



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It's a sin  
To say that Hell is hot ~ 'cause it's not:  
Mind you, I know very well we're in hell.  
~ In a twisted hump we lie ~ heaping high  
Yes! an' higher every day. ~ Oh, I say,  
This chap's heavy on my thighs ~ damn his eyes.



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**Think! Which source best reveals the horrors of the new technology of poison gas?**

7. Look at Sources E, F and G. If you wanted to find out what a German gas attack was like for British troops, which Source would be more useful?

**Source E**  
 These never still in the trenches north of Ypres saw two curious wreaths of greenish-yellow fog sweep forward, spread until they had gone and then, moving forward, change to a blue-white mist. ... Soon, officers behind the British front ... were started to see a torrent of terrified humanity pouring backward.  
 From: *History of the First World War*, by Basil Liddell Hart, 1970.

**Source F**  
 Plainly something terrible was happening. What was it? Officers, and Staff officers too, stood gazing at the scene, a-stunned and dumbfounded, for in the north they saw there came a pungent noxious smell that tickled the throat and made our eyes smart. Our men came stumbling through our lines. An officer ... loudly "What's the matter, you ... lot of cowards?"  
 From: Arthur H. Rossick, *Quest Vietnam Files*, 1913.

**Source G**  
 A little pain in the lungs and the coughing up of a greenish froth of the emaciated and the hoarse, finally resulting in death.  
 From: *Liner* by Ernest Hemingway, 1917.

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**Source A: Punch, 1916**



**Source B: Stuart Dolden, 1920**

The outstanding feature of the trenches was the extraordinary number of rats. The area was infested with them. It was impossible to keep them out of the dugouts. They grew fat on the food that they pilfered from us, and anything they could pick up in or around the trenches; they were bloated and loathsome to look at. Some were nearly as big as cats. We were filled with an instinctive hatred of them, because however one tried to put the thought of one's mind, one could not help feeling that they fed on the dead.

**Trench Rats!**

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**Source C: George Coppard, 1916**  
*A Machine Gun in Cambrai (1916)*  
 Rats lived by the tens of thousands and lived on the fat of the land. When we were sleeping in duck holes the things ran over us, ploughed about, explicated and looted our stores of food, their young squabbling incessantly. There was no proper system of waste disposal in trench life. Every scrap of old bread was hung over the top on both sides of the trench. Millions of rats were thus available for all the rats on France and Belgium on hundreds of miles of trenches. During brief moments of quiet at night, one could hear a continuous rattle of fat snuffing against each other. The rats were running their lives. What happened to the rats under heavy shell-fall was a mystery, but their position of natural safe place with each new weapon, including poison gas.

**Source D: Richard Heasley, interviewed in 1993.**  
 If you left rats that the rats would soon get it. There are war hospitals. Incubators are would about the filthy water. The rats would be put up a charge for making noise. If the biggest single too.

**Source E: Frank Lattin writing after the war.**  
 Sometimes the men unmasked themselves by taking the ends of their rifles with pieces of bacon in order to have a shot at them in close quarters.

**Activities**

1. Why were there so many Trench Rats during the First World War?
2. How big could the Trench Rats grow?
3. Which part of the body would the rats eat first?
4. Look at Source C. How could you tell if these were rats nearby at night?

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**Trench Definitions**

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right then copy into your glossary:

Communications Trench		A block of barbed wire and wooden planks to slow the enemy's advance through the trench.
Sandbag		A break in the barbed wire to allow soldiers into a trench.
No Man's Land		An opening in the trench, often used for escape.
Barricade		A structure at the bottom of the trench to slow the enemy's advance.
Trench Block		Trenches between the front line trenches and the support trenches, used by engineers to relay messages to the front and back.
Wire Break		The area between the opposing sides' front lines.
Barricade		A bag filled with sawdust placed in a trench to stop the enemy from passing.

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**Make Predictions:**  
How will the trench warfare stalemate end?

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**1917: The Turning Point!**

Why does this year represent a major turning point in WWI and for which side?




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## The United States Stays Neutral

- Americans thought of World War I as strictly a European conflict.
- President Wilson declared that the U.S. would stay **neutral**—not support or attack either side.
- Wilson's decision reflected the U.S.'s longstanding policy of **isolationism**, or not being involved in foreign affairs.

Privately, Wilson favored the Allied because:

- 1) Germany had aggressive tactics.
- 2) The U.S. also had greater political, cultural, and commercial ties to Great Britain and France than to Germany.
- 3) Financially, the U.S. did more business with the Allies.
  - By 1917 Britain purchased nearly \$75 million worth of war goods each week from the U.S.

### WESTERN FRONT

1914-1918

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## German Submarine Warfare

### U-Boats

- Germany suffered because of the British blockade, so it developed small submarines called U-boats to strike back at the British.
- U-boats are named after the German for "undersea boat."
- In February 1915 the German government declared the waters around Great Britain a war zone, threatening to destroy all enemy ships.
- Germany warned the U.S. that neutral ships might be attacked.
- The German plan for unrestricted submarine warfare angered Americans, and Wilson believed it violated the laws of neutrality.
- Wilson held Germany accountable for American losses.

### America's Involvement

- In 1915, Germany sank a luxury passenger ship to Great Britain called the *Lusitania*, killing many, including 128 Americans.
- Americans were outraged, and Wilson demanded an end to unrestricted submarine warfare.
- The Germans agreed to attack only supply ships but later sank the French passenger ship *Sussex*, killing 80 people.
- Wilson threatened Germany again, and Germany issued the **Unrestricted Submarine Warfare**, promising not to sink merchant vessels "without warning and without saving human lives."

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## 1917

- February 1, 1917 Germany resumes **unrestricted submarine warfare**.
- February 3, 1917 America breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany

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Arthur Zimmermann,  
German ambassador  
To Mexico

- March, 1917 7 American vessels are sunk by German submarines.
- The **Zimmermann Telegram** is made public, revealing an alleged plot—In return for Mexican support, Germans promised to help Mexico regain Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona from the U.S.

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**WHAT DOES THIS CARTOON CRITICIZE?**



© Fun Publishing Company  
SOME PROMISE! April 1917

The cartoon satirizes the Zimmerman Note.

1. According to the cartoon, what are Germany and Mexico planning to do?
2. How did the discovery of the Zimmerman Note influence the United States to enter the War?

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**The United States in World War I**

**Understanding World War I**  
Nations compete in the global arena for political and economic power.

**A DOUGHBODY'S LETTER TO KAISER WILHELM**

In the light was one continued the practice of causing violence among the world's nations, causing the world to burn with children and... You searched the corners of your cabinet and in the open, the secret and passages of imperial vice which they take in their own, in their own. To Germany, you, through your foreign mission, agency, agents, and Japan, you conspire with them and nation, to make peace, to make the age...




**WAKE UP AMERICA!**  
CIVILIZATION CALLS EVERY MAN WOMAN OR CHILD

**Understanding World War I:**  
How did the United States benefit from its involvement in World War One?  
**Explain:** Why do you think the United States got involved in the First World War?  
**Compare:** What were the consequences of American involvement in World War I?  
**Learn:** To learn more about World War I, visit The First World War - The American Experience, Project Gutenberg, The Great War, and World War One: The American Experience. Title: The Liberty of Congress.

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**Think! If you were President Woodrow Wilson's advisor, would you encourage him to declare war on Germany? Or is there another solution?**



President Woodrow Wilson

- Imagine that it is spring of **1917**. The war has been ravaging Europe for three years now, and the U.S. has remained neutral up to this point. You are Wilson's foreign policy advisor. Your proposal would:
  - Describe the immediate events leading up to America's decision to enter the war.
  - Form a position and defend it, either for or against war!
  - Predict the likely effects of America's decision to declare war or remain neutral.

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President Woodrow Wilson




General Pershing

- April 6, 1917 America declares war** on Germany, mobilizes and sends troops to France under General "Blackjack" Pershing

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**SUMMARY:  
WHY DID THE US GET INVOLVED IN WWI (1917-1918)?**

- 1) Inability to remain neutral
- 2) German "unrestricted submarine warfare" – the sinking of the Lusitania
- 3) U.S. economic and political ties to Great Britain

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### AMERICA MOBOLIZES FOR WAR!




- What purpose did these posters serve?

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### Influencing Public Opinion

President Wilson used a number of tactics to gain the support of Americans who had favored neutrality in World War I.

#### Propaganda

- The **Committee on Public Information** began a campaign of **propaganda**: posters, news stories, speeches, and other materials to influence opinion.
- Creel hired movie stars to speak, and artists to create patriotic posters and pamphlets.
- One famous poster by James Montgomery Flagg pictures Uncle Sam saying "I Want You for the U.S. Army."

#### Reactions

- Some Americans began to distrust German things.
- Many schools stopped teaching German, and symphonies stopped playing German music.
- German-sounding names were changed, so sauerkraut became liberty cabbage and hamburgers became liberty steak.
- Reports spread that German secret agents were operating in the U.S., causing some Americans to discriminate against German Americans.




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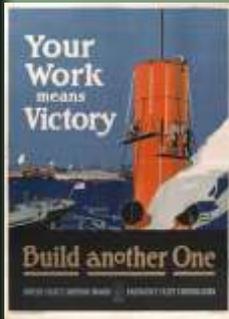
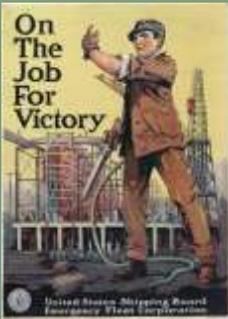
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### Analyze these posters!

- What purpose did these posters serve?

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Propaganda campaign begins in United States in 1917.  
What was the purpose of these posters?



"Demonizing" the enemy!



The most famous "Uncle Sam" poster in history!

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## American Arrival in Europe



- **Expeditionary Forces (AEF)**, led by **General John J. Pershing**, was made of the American Army, National Guard, and volunteer and draft soldiers overseas formed the American
- The first U.S. troops arrived in France in 1917 through a **convey system**, in which troop-transport ships were surrounded by destroyers or cruisers for protection, limiting the number of ships sunk and troops lost.
- When America arrived, Germany occupied all of Belgium and part of France, and Russia struggled against famine and civil war.
- If Russia fell, Germans would bring all their troops west, and the Allies needed the Americans to fight immediately.
- General Pershing, however, wanted American troops to train and to fight separately from European regiments.
- Pershing sent his troops to training camps in eastern France instead of to the battlefields.

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March-July 1917 **The German *Friedensturm***

It is designed to destroy the Allies before the American forces arrive in large numbers. The Germans lose 800,000 soldiers in four months. The last German offensive of the war and the first major tank battle takes place.

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### More Important Events of 1917

- May, 1917 The French army is exhausted, some units mutiny and France remains on the defensive until the arrival of American troops.

#### Events in Russia

- March, 1917 The scarcity of food, fuel, and demands for democracy brings down **Czar Nicholas II**. A provisional government under **Alexander Kerensky** takes over. Kerensky keeps Russia in the war.
- July, 1917 A devastating German offensive and Bolshevik activities break Russian morale. Russian troops start to mutiny and desert. Bolsheviks try to take over, but fail. Party leader Lenin goes into hiding.

Group of Russians in the ruins. (Rheims The Marne. France 1917).

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### The Bolshevik Revolution



- Lenin returns from exile in Finland to lead the "October Revolution" promising land, bread, and peace.
- November 7-16, 1917 **The Bolshevik Revolution** ("Ten Days that shook the World")—Communist party leaders, under **Vladimir Lenin**, lead a revolution against the Russian government. The world's first communist government is set up.

Kerensky flees to the U.S. The first Marxist state is founded.

- December, 1917--The Bolsheviks start negotiating peace with the Germans

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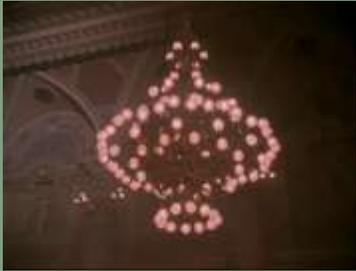
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### Video Clip: From "Young Indiana Jones: Lenin" (3m)



Q. What ideals of socialism does Lenin express in his speech?  
Why does Lenin want Russia to pull out of WWI?

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**Der Schwartz Tag** (The black day) August 8, 1918  
 German forces take heavy losses. The army knows the war is lost.

- August 8-11, 1918 **The Battle of Amiens**  
 Allied offensive that heavily damages the Germans. The Germans are forced to retreat to the **Hindenburg Line**.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II tells his advisors that Germany must come to an understanding with the enemy. General Ludendorff states, "The war must be ended."
- German morale is completely broken. The Allies realize that they can win in 1918.

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**Interpreting Maps**  
**Movement** How did the battles at Cantigny, Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, and the Meuse affect the German advance?  
 See *Skills Handbook*, p. H20

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- **November 11, 1918**  
 The Germans sign the **Armistice**—cease-fire—ending the war.

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## Peace without Victory

### The Main Idea

The Allies determined the terms for peace in the postwar world.

### Reading Focus

- What was President Wilson's Fourteen Points plan for peace?
- What was resolved at the Paris Peace Conference?
- Why did Congress fight over the treaty?
- What was the impact of World War I on the United States and the world?

Panorama of destruction. (Reims Marne, France 1917).

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## 1918



- January, 1918 **President Wilson** puts forward his **14 points**, the U.S. peace plan, including the creation of a League of Nations after the War
- March, 1918 **Bolshevik Russia** signs the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** -- Russia makes peace with the Germans and yield Poland, Estonia, Latvia, & Lithuania to Germany. Finland is recognized as independent.

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## The Paris Peace Conference

- President Wilson led American negotiators attending the peace conference in Paris in January 1919.
  - He was the first U.S. President to visit Europe while in office.
  - Republicans criticized Wilson for leaving the country when it was trying to restore its economy.
- Wilson acted as an unbiased leader to prevent squabbling among European nations.
- The Paris Peace Conference began on January 12, 1919, with leaders representing 32 nations, or about three-quarters of the world's population.
- The leaders of the victorious Allies became known as the **Big Four** — **President Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French premier Georges Clemenceau, and Italian prime minister Vittorio Orlando.**
- Germany and the Central Powers were not invited to attend.

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### Conflicting Needs at the Peace Conference

The delegates arrived at the Peace Conference with competing needs and desires.

Better World	Revenge	Independence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Wilson had a vision of a better world.</li> <li>He wanted nations to deal with each other openly and trade with each other fairly.</li> <li>Wanted countries to reduce their arsenal of weapons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many Allies wanted to punish Germany for its role in the war.</li> <li>Georges Clemenceau accused Germany of tyrannical conduct, exemplified by the huge loss of life and the continued suffering of veterans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia wanted to build new nations.</li> <li>Poland, divided between Germany and Russia, wanted one nation.</li> <li>Ho Chi Minh worked at the Paris Ritz hotel and asked France to free Vietnam.</li> </ul>

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### Opening Activity for our Versailles Debate: Think!!!

**Source A:**  
A member of the British public, 1918.

"The German nation should be destroyed. It is the only way to ensure that such a war never happens again."

**Source B:**  
A member of the British public, 1918.

"If we weaken and punish Germany too much, it will only anger her. That way, we'll make a war more likely, not less."

**Reparation = to pay for the damage.**

**Source C:**  
Clemenceau, French President, 1918.

"Germany must be brought to book. We demand reparation and revenge."

**Activities**

- Which country had enemy armies fighting on their soil?
- Which country suffered damage to farmland, factories and communications?
- In your opinion which country suffered the most in World War One? Why?
- In your opinion which country suffered the least in World War One? Why?
- Read Source C. Why did the French want 'reparation and revenge'?

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**Source D: British Press, 1918**

- Read Sources A and D. Why did so many people in Britain hate the Germans in 1918?
- Read Source B. Why did some people in Britain think punishing Germany too much was a bad idea?

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### Reactions to the Treaty of Versailles

The following sources give the reactions of both the British and Germans to the Treaty of Versailles.

**Source A: British MP 1919**  
 The Germans are going to pay every penny; they are going to be squandered, until the pigs squeal.

**Source B: British Cartoon, 1919**

**Source C: German Newspaper, 1919**  
**Vengeance! German Nation**  
 Today in the Hall of Mirrors, the disgraceful Treaty is being signed. Do not forget it. The German people will with increasing hatred press forward to recuperate the place among nations to which it is entitled. There will come vengeance for the shame of 1919.

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### Cartoons about the Versailles Treaty

Work out the message of each of the following cartoons. Do this by completing each of these sentences.

- In this cartoon, I can see...
- I think that this represents...
- Through this, I think the cartoonist is trying to say that...

1. 

- In this cartoon, I can see...
- I think that this represents...
- Through this, I think the cartoonist is trying to say that...

2. 

German General to Allied Forces:  
 "Hello, I say, stop! You're fasting me!  
 (Hello, if I only have enough I may be able to wriggle out of this net.)"

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<p>Germany's Emblems</p>	<p>- In this cartoon, I can see ...</p> <p>- I think that this represents ...</p> <p>- Through this, I think the cartoonist is trying to say that...</p>
<p>Democracy the Vampire</p>	<p>- In this cartoon, I can see ...</p> <p>- I think that this represents ...</p> <p>- Through this, I think the cartoonist is trying to say that...</p>

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**Hitler's Speech**    **How did Hitler feel about it?**

Speech on the Treaty of Versailles (April 17, 1933)  
Adolf Hitler

With the armistice begins the humiliation of Germany. This Republic on the day of its foundation had expected in the country: Germans, stand together! Up and resist the foe! The Fatherland, the Republic expects of you that you fight to your last breath, that millions who are now enemies of the Republic would be faithful Republicans. Today they are the foes of the Republic not because it is a Republic but because this Republic was founded at the moment when Germany was humiliated, because it so abandoned the new flag that men's eyes were turned regretfully toward the old flag.

No long as this Treaty stands there can be no restoration of the German people, no social reforms of any kind is possible! The Treaty was made in order to bring 23 million Germans to their deaths and to ruin the German nation; but those who made the Treaty cannot act! As its foundation our Movement formulated three demands:

1.    Striking aside the Peace Treaty.
2.    Defeatism of all treaties.
3.    Land and soil [ironed and linked] to feed our nation.

Our movement could formulate these demands, since it was not our Movement which caused the War, if has not made the Republic, it did not sign the Peace Treaty.

There is thus one thing which is the first task of this Movement: it desires to make the German once more National, that his Fatherland shall stand for him above everything else. It desires to teach our people to understand afresh the truth of the old saying: He who will not be a hammer must be an anvil. An anvil we are today, and that anvil will be beaten until out of the anvil a nation once more a hammer, a German is out!

Note: Text of speech from *Speeches of President Hindenburg, Volume II, Perry Rogers, ed., Praeger, 1941* (1933)

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USH4B

**U.S. LEADERSHIP AT WAR'S END**

- Wilson proposed a peace plan including his "14 Points" which became the basis for the Versailles Treaty. It called for a League of Nations to keep the peace. The Central Powers were not represented at Versailles.
- The U.S. (Senate) refused to join the League

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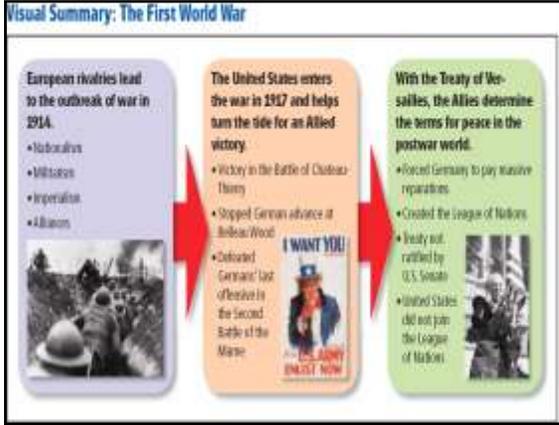
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Country	Dead	Wounded	Missing	Total
Australia	56,150	352,170	-	210,320
Austria-Hungary	922,000	3,600,000	855,283	5,377,283
Belgium	102,000	450,000	-	552,000
Britain	658,700	2,032,150	359,150	3,050,000
Bulgaria	87,500	152,390	27,029	266,919
Canada	56,500	149,700	-	206,200
France	1,359,000	4,200,000	361,650	5,920,650
Germany	1,600,000	4,065,000	103,000	5,768,000
Greece	3,000	21,000	1,000	27,000
India	43,200	65,175	5,875	114,250
Italy	989,000	959,100	-	1,424,660
Japan	300	907	3	1,210
Montenegro	3,000	10,000	7,000	20,000
New Zealand	16,130	40,750	-	56,880
Portugal	7,222	13,751	12,318	33,291
Romania	335,706	120,000	80,000	535,706
Russia	1,700,000	5,000,000	-	6,700,000
Serbia	45,000	133,148	152,958	331,106
Turkey	250,000	400,000	-	650,000
USA	58,480	189,955	14,290	262,725
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,996,888</b>	<b>21,755,196</b>	<b>1,979,556</b>	<b>31,508,200</b>

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## The Impact of World War I

**Political**

- The war led to the overthrow of monarchies in Russia, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Turkey.
- It contributed to the rise of the Bolsheviks to power in Russia in 1917.
- It fanned the flames of revolts against colonialism in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

**Economic**

- WWI devastated European economies, giving the U.S. the economic lead.
- The U.S. still faced problems such as inflation, which left people struggling to afford ordinary items.
- Farmers, whose goods were less in demand than during the war, were hit hard.

**Social**

- The war killed 14 million people and left 7 million men disabled.
- The war drew more than a million women into the U.S. workforce, which helped them pass the Nineteenth Amendment to get the vote.
- It also encouraged African Americans to move to northern cities for factory work.

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## Impact in Europe

- The effects of World War I in Europe were devastating.
  - 1) European nations lost almost an entire generation of young men.
  - 2) France, where most of the fighting took place, was in ruins.
  - 3) Great Britain was deeply in debt to the U.S. and lost its place as the world's financial center.
  - 4) The reparations forced on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles were crippling to its economy.
- World War I would not be the "war to end all wars," as some called it.
  - Too many issues were left unresolved.
  - Too much anger and hostility remained among nations.
- Conflict would again break out in Europe, bringing the United States and the world back into war.

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## How did the War Effect the Political Geography of Europe?



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## NEW NATIONS

- FINLAND
- POLAND
- ESTONIA
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA
- AUSTRIA
- HUNGARY
- SOVIET UNION (RUSSIA)
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA)
- TURKEY

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## NEW NATIONS OF EUROPE AFTER WWI



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## How did the Treaty of Versailles affect Germany?

- Massively reduced military capability
- ‘War guilt’ clause imposed
- Reparations fixed at a very high level
- Which leads to...

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## The Situation in Germany at the End of WWI

- Death and destruction
- The Kaiser has abdicated and left Germany
- A power vacuum has been created; no established form of government
- Millions of German workers had been killed or seriously injured during the war
- The Germany economy is ruined—depression!
- Germany has become an international pariah (outcast)
- Germany is subject to an imposed peace settlement




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## Germany’s Post-War Problems

- 1) **Political instability.** There are uprisings against the fledging republic even before it is properly formed.
- 2) **Economic ruin.** The war has devastated the economy and further problems occur as a result of the Peace settlement.
- 3) **Unemployment.** Millions of soldiers have returned home to find no jobs available.




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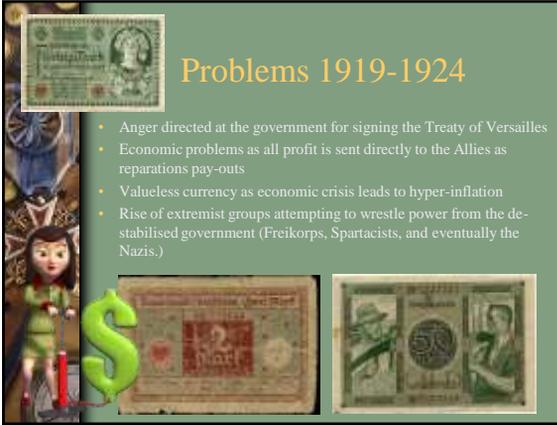
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### Problems 1919-1924

- Anger directed at the government for signing the Treaty of Versailles
- Economic problems as all profit is sent directly to the Allies as reparations pay-outs
- Valueless currency as economic crisis leads to hyper-inflation
- Rise of extremist groups attempting to wrestle power from the destabilised government (Freikorps, Spartacists, and eventually the Nazis.)




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### Other factors...



- Government established in difficult circumstances
- Mistrust of government and animosity towards it from its inception
- Refusal of the rest of the World to accept Germany's new Weimar government

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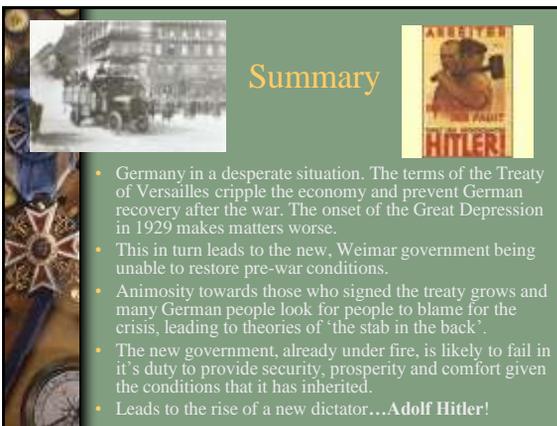
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### Summary



- Germany in a desperate situation. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles cripple the economy and prevent German recovery after the war. The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 makes matters worse.
- This in turn leads to the new, Weimar government being unable to restore pre-war conditions.
- Animosity towards those who signed the treaty grows and many German people look for people to blame for the crisis, leading to theories of 'the stab in the back'.
- The new government, already under fire, is likely to fail in its duty to provide security, prosperity and comfort given the conditions that it has inherited.
- Leads to the rise of a new dictator...**Adolf Hitler!**

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**TOPIC FOR NEXT WEEK...**

- EUROPE IN-BETWEEN THE WARS!
  - ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN EUROPE, WITH A FOCUS ON GERMANY.
  - THE CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF DICTATORS IN GERMANY AND ITALY DURING THE 1930'S.
  - EVENTS LEADING TO WWII! WHY DID THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES FAIL TO KEEP THE PEACE?

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**EXTRAS...**

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**Battle of Somme Assignment**

- **Introductions:** Somme was one of the most important WWI battles featuring trench warfare.  
**Read:** "A Death at the Battle of Somme."
- **Directions:** Complete the worksheet "Living through the War: The Battle of Somme" and "The Daily Tribune: The Battle of Somme," which requires you to create the front page of a newspaper, featuring articles and one illustration of the war. Your articles should be summative and analytical and full of historical detail. Please draw your own representations of the Battle; your drawing can take the form of a political cartoon, if you wish.

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**Video: "In the Line of Fire: Somme"**  
(Time Permitting...)

- **Think about this:** Does a documentary more effectively reveal the characteristics and horrors of trench warfare, concerning the Battle of Somme? Answer these questions:
  - 1) What types of new weapons were introduced during WWI? Does the movie effectively display these new killing devices? Explain.
  - 2) Does the movie accurately portray the horrors of trench warfare and the concept of stalemate?
  - 3) Does the movie accurately portray the changing attitudes and emotions of the soldiers who fought in the trenches?
  - 4) Which type of source would you find more useful to our study of history: A documentary or actual accounts written by the soldiers themselves? Explain.

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The Daily Tribune	
Battle of the Somme	

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**Think! Is this source about the trenches useful?**

3. Look at Source D. How useful is this Source for someone studying what life was like for soldiers in the Trenches? Explain your answer.

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**Source D**  
I sat on the latrine box and patiently counted 303 lice on my clothes and body. God how I hate the little bastards.  
From: A. Abschman, a soldier on the Western Front.

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